

June 2, 2014

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*My name is Ronald Monteiro. I came to this facility (R.H.V.H) in 1997, homeless, lost, and strung out. Now, with each new day, I thank God for this place - not only for myself, but for my fellow veterans as well. That said, you may not wish to read on. In my opinion, Commissioner Schwartz and her staff are doing a fine job for us. The commissioner secured a new health care facility, remodeled the domicile latrines, and arranged for new furniture, air conditioning, and a host of other amenities we had not previously seen here on the hill. I believe that were it not for the present commissioner, the Rocky Hill V. A. would be stuck in the stone ages, and we along with it.*

*The veterans who reside here should be grateful for all that they have - a cafeteria that serves up three reasonably healthy meals each day, safe shelter that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer, and all at a price one would be hard-pressed to find anywhere else. Our medical needs are appropriately met, including transportation to and from appointments, educational services and support are provided for those who seek a new career, and the list goes on. Surely the benefits far outweigh any shortcomings one may choose to dwell upon. Yes, this place is surely less than perfect; but it is a far cry from the alternative. All in all, it is a good place to be, and it is a great place from which to pursue a better life.*

*...for what it's worth.*

*A grateful Veteran*

*Ronn Monteiro*

*P.S. The gate swings both ways.*